AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, line 21 to line 29, with the following amended paragraph:

To date, EMI control has proven difficult due to the ability of EMI radiation to travel through small gaps in EMI shielding. Despite being housed in EMI shielded device housings, electronic devices often receive or generate EMI radiation that enters or escapes through gaps in the device housings. For example, these device housings often have access ports, lids or side panels that provide access to devices enclosed by the device housings. Imperfect fit of these access ports, etc. can leave gaps large enough to pass significant amounts of EMI radiation. These gaps are especially common in so-called "blade systems," which permit replaceable printed circuit boards (blades) to be plugged into the chassis ~~into chassis~~ through openings in front panels of the chassis.

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 16 to line 20, with the following amended paragraph:

Embodiments of the invention provide EMI gasket mechanisms that can be actuated independent of installing devices that utilize or benefit from these mechanisms. Such an EMI gasket mechanism is typically actuated after a device is installed. Thus, actuation of the EMI gasket mechanism does not contribute to, nor rely on ~~relying on~~, insertion force used to install the device.

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 14 to line 22, with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 1A-B contain diagrams illustrating an exemplary blade system 100 and several blades 106, 108, 110, 112 and 114 that are, or could be, installed in the blade system, to illustrate ~~all to illustrate~~ how an embodiment of the present invention can be advantageously practiced. The blade system 100 includes a housing 102 having an opening 104, through which blades can be inserted. The blade system 100 includes a backplane with sockets (not shown), into which the blades can be plugged, as is well-known in the art. The blade system 100 is shown with blade 106 partially inserted into the blade system

and blades 108, 110 and 112 fully inserted therein. To facilitate understanding of this embodiment ~~this embodiment~~ of the invention, Figure 1B shows blade 114 separate from, i.e. not inserted into, the blade system 100.

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 23 to line 29, with the following amended paragraph:

Focusing primarily on Figure 1A, the blade system housing 102 includes an EMI shield (not shown), thus providing an EMI-shielded ~~EMI shielded~~ housing for blades inserted therein, as is well-known in the art. Blade 106 includes a bulkhead 116, which includes an EMI shield (not shown), also as is well-known in the art. Similarly, the other blades 108-114 include bulkheads 118, 120, 122 and 124, respectively, each of which includes an EMI shield (not shown). Absent an EMI gasket, gaps, such as those shown at 126 and 128, would typically remain around the bulkheads 118-122 of the installed blades 108-112.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 19 to line 27, with the following amended paragraph:

With continued reference to the blade 114 illustrated in Figure 1B, when the EMI gasket mechanism is actuated, the protruding portion of the expandable EMI gasket 160 protrudes along preferably all four sides of the bulkhead 124, as shown at 162~~and 162~~, 164 and 166 (bottom not visible). If the blade 114 had been installed in the blade system housing 102 prior to engaging the cam-levers 148 and 150, the protruding portion of the expandable EMI gasket 160 would contact mating surfaces, such as expandable EMI gaskets, of adjacent blades or mating surfaces, such as surface 168, of the opening 104 of the blade system housing. Thus, the expandable EMI gasket 160 of blade 114 would seal a space against passage of EMI radiation between the blade's bulkhead and one or more adjacent mating surfaces.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 31 to page 9, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

Once engaged, friction between the cam-levers 222 and 224 and the compression ring 204 preferably keeps the cam-levers from leaving their engaged positions until they are manually returned to the unengaged position. Alternatively, a bracket, lock or other mechanism can be used to secure the position of the cam-levers 222 and 224. Although in this embodiment the cam-levers 222 and 224 directly contact the compression ring 204, at least when the cam-levers are engaged, this need not be so. The cam-levers can be otherwise operably linked to the compression ring 204, and there can be other elements between the cam-levers and the compression ring.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, line 23 to line 31, with the following amended paragraph:

Furthermore, embodiments of the present invention need not necessarily cause a portion of an expandable EMI gasket to protrude outward of a device that employs ~~employees~~ the inventive EMI gasket mechanism. For example, Figure 8 illustrates a cross-section of a lid 800 that closes an opening 802 defined by flanges 804 in a panel 806. An expandable EMI gasket 808 is disposed, and can be squeezed, between a compression ring 810 and inwardly-turned portions 812 of the lid 800. As cam-levers 814 and 816 (or their alternatives) are swung, the expandable EMI gasket 808 is squeezed and a portion of it protrudes toward, and contacts, the flanges 804, thereby sealing a space between the flanges and the lid 800 against passage of EMI radiation.